Enhancing Communication on Education Opportunities

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Background

Historically, communication about training and educational opportunities in our region relied on emails from the school administrator or deanery teams. This resulted in not all trainees and trainers being aware of information and complaints of 'email fatigue'. Therefore, in 2018, the Head of School (HoS) and newly expanded Trainees' Committee (TC) devised innovative approaches to improve the trainee experience. The resources below became active in 2018 and remain in use to aid communication with Paediatric trainees and trainers in the West Midlands.

Resources:

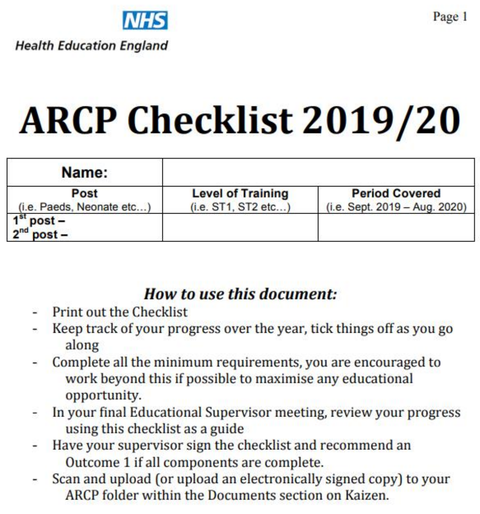
The TC and HoS met to discuss methods of improving communication and standardising trainees' expectations, particularly regarding the Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP). We then planned & implemented a 4-point plan of resources.

Regional Trainee Website

- Updated weekly by the TC members
- Clearly laid out information
- Includes:
  - educational/research opportunities
  - courses
  - teaching resources
  - how to apply for LTFT training & return to work programmes.

ARCP Checklist

- For trainees and trainers
- States expected eportfolio entries, aligned with 2018-19 RCPCH requirements & updated annually since.
- Academic/OOPR checklists have also been developed.



Newsletter (monthly)

- For all regional paediatricians
- Essential information including training updates, educational courses and opportunities, supervisor training and trainee-led research.

Social Media

- TC Twitter account
- Engage with an independent trainees' Facebook group

To further disseminate information and encouragement

Feedback:

In Aug '19, we distributed an online snapshot feedback survey via social media & at protected teaching days using SurveyMonkey.

Results:

- 41 responses (14% of trainees), with at least one response from each training year.
- 17 (41%) responses were from ST4-5.
- 37 (90%) had used the website;
  35 (94%) of these found it 'quite' or 'extremely useful'.
- The ARCP checklist was reported to be one of the most useful changes.
- 38 (93%) read the newsletter;
  33 (86%) of these trainees found it 'quite' or 'extremely useful'.
- Fewer trainees (54%) were aware of the Twitter account.

30/38 trainees (79%) reported these changes had improved trainee experience

What trainees found useful about the website:

To go to our website scan below:

Conclusion:

By embracing technology and close liaison between TC and school board, our regional communication and trainee experience has been significantly enhanced.
We recommend this to all paediatricians.

To join #WMPaedsFamily scan below: